

Message Text

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13

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-07 SPC-03 SS-20 RSC-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01

ACDA-19 L-03 OMB-01 DRC-01 /121 W

----- 017830

R 070715Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2726

INFO AMEMBASY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

USUN NEW YORK 0579

USMISSION GENEVA

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 1383

CINCPAC ALSO PASS POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AS, CB

SUBJECT: TRANSFER OF GOA AMBASSADOR FROM GKR TO THAILAND

1. I LEARNED FROM ALAN RENOUF, DFA SECRETARY , THAT
M.L. JOHNSTON , GOA AMBASSADOR TO CAMBODIA WHO HAS BEEN
ON LEAVE FOR SOMETIME NOW IN CANBERRA, WILL BE REASSIGNED
AS AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR TOThailand AND THAT NO
SUCCESSOR HAS YET BEEN DESIGNATED TO CAMBODIA. WHEN I
EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT THIS MIGHT PRESSAGE A GOA MOVE
TO DOWNGRADE ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH GKR, LEAVING ITS
POST IN PHNOM PENH WITHOUT AN AMBASSADOR FOR AN INDEFINITE
PERIOD OF TIME, I WAS TOLD (UNCONVINCINGLY) THAT THIS
WAS NOT NECESSARILY SO, THAT THE BANGKOK PSOITION HAD
TO BE FILLED WITH A MAN EXPERIENCED IN THE AREA AND
JOHNSTON SEEMED MOST SUITED FOR THAT ASSIGNMENT. RENOUF
ADDED THAT GOA HAS NOT YET HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO FOCUS
ON THE NAMING OF A SUCCESSOR.

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2. COMMENT: THIS DEVELOPMENT NEVERTHELESS CONTRASTS

WITH THE FACT THAT PRIMIN WHITLAM FOR THE FIRST TIME
ON FEBRUARY 26 RECEIVED CAMBODIAN AMBASSADOR TO AUSTRALIA
CHHUT CHHOEUR AND, THROUGH HIM, CONVEYED A WARMMESSAGE
OF GREETING TO LON NOL IN RESPONSE TO THE LATTER'S
MESSAGE (CANBERRA 1318 NOTAL). WE HAVE ALSO BEEN
RELIABLEY INFORMED THAT GOA WILL SUPPORT GKR REPRESENTATIVES'
CREDENTIALS AT LAW OF WAR CONFERENCE, IT BEING GOA
POSITIONTHAT AS LONG AS GKR IS INCHARGE OF PHNOM
PENH AND SEATED IN UN AUSTRALIA WILL CONTINUE ITS
RECOGNITIONAND SUPPORT.

3.OVERALL, WHITLAM TAKES A HIGHLY SCEPTICAL ATTITUDE
TOWARD GKR AND IT MAY WELL BE THAT HIS RECEIVING DKR
AMBASSADOR AND HIS VOTING POSITION IN LAW OF WAR ARE
DESIGNED TO CONUNTERBALANCE A LOWER GOA PRESENCE IN
CAMBODIA.
GREEN

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, AMBASSADORS, PERSONNEL ASSIGNMENTS
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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 MAR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
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Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
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Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

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Type: TE
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